

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending. The claim amendments are supported by the original disclosure and, thus, no new matter has been added.

A statement claiming priority to a parent application has been added.

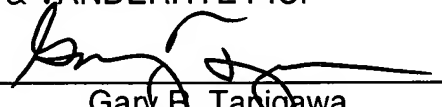
The Int'l Search Report for Appln. No. PCT/US2003/18334 and Form PTO-1449 listing the documents cited by the Examiner in the parent application is submitted herewith.

Applicants earnestly solicit an early and favorable examination on the merits. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if any further information is required.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____


Gary R. Tanigawa
Reg. No. 43,180

1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100